

REMARKS

The Specification has been amended to correct grammatical errors, employ more idiomatic English and to clarify the invention. The title of the invention has been changed to overcome the Examiner objection. Claims 1-4 have been amended to clarify the invention, to obviate the objection to the drawings and to eliminate "means" language and possible application of 35 U.S.C. §112(b). No new matter has been added by any of the aforementioned changes.

Turning to the art rejections, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 10 and 11 as anticipated by Furukawa, and the Examiner has rejected claims 3-4 as obvious from Furukawa in view of Tateishi et al. Enclosed herewith is a Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.131 which establishes that the Applicants completed the claimed invention before the U.S. filing date of the Furukawa reference. In this regard, Applicants note that the Furukawa patent, which issued after the filing date of the subject application, has a January 9, 2001 U.S. filing date. Since this application was filed on or after January 1, 1996, pursuant to Section 531(b) of Public Law 10-465, the amendment made to 35 U.S.C. §104 is applicable in this case. Accordingly, Applicants' Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.131 which clearly shows completion of the claimed invention in a WTO member country, i.e. Japan, prior to the January 9, 2001 filing date of the Furukawa patent, removes the Furukawa patent as citable prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102/103. Accordingly, the rejection of the claims as anticipated by Furukawa, or as obvious from Furukawa in view of Tateishi et al. cannot be maintained.

The allowance of claims 12 and 13 is noted, with thanks. However, in view of the foregoing Amendments and comments, it is believed that all of the claims are allowable over the art.

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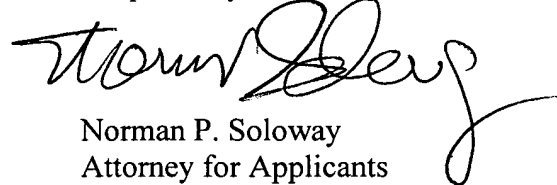
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With regard to the election requirement, since claims 1 and 2 are generic, it is requested that non-elected claims 5-9 be rejoined.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

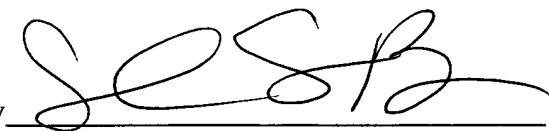
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 21, 2005, at Tucson, Arizona.

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